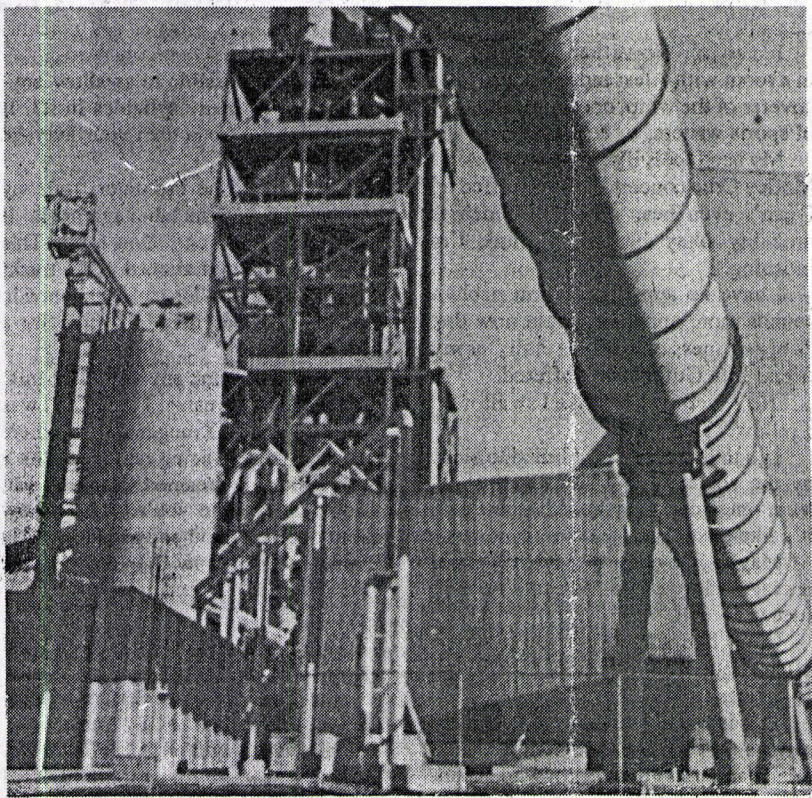


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The Leamington cement plant straddles the highway between Leamington and Nephi.



Ken Ware

## Cement plant fuel plans attacked

Residents who live near the Leamington cement plant told company officials they don't want hazardous waste used as an alternative fuel at the plant.

Officials of Ash Grove Cement West, Inc. held a meeting Wednesday, Nov. 8 with local citizens to explain their plan to test potential use of recycled wastes to produce heat to make cement. Similar briefings for local government officials and plant employees had already been held.

Company officials had also met with state air quality officials.

"We would like to let people know right up front what we're doing and be able to talk it over with them," company spokesman Ken Ware said. Ware is Employee Relations Manager at the Leamington plant.

"We knew there would be some people in opposition to it," Ware said. "Those people have a say. We wanted them to at least know what we're doing."

The company now uses 60,000 to 90,000 tons of coal a year in its kiln at the plant in Juab County five miles east of Leamington and 25 miles west of Nephi. Almost any kind of fuel can be used to process cement. The company wants to test alternatives that may cut costs.

The alternatives would supplement coal. "How much would depend on the type of fuel we're burning," Ware said. "Typically it would be in the neighborhood of 20, 30, 40 percent." Currently coal is purchased from Southern Utah Fuel Company.

Many of the 30 or so residents who attended the meeting held at the plant said they didn't like the idea.

"You're proposing to turn this into a toxic waste incinerator," one resident said. "That's all it is."

Many of the residents had success-

fully opposed a plan by Rollins Environmental Services Inc. to build a hazardous waste incinerator at Lynndyl, 20 miles west of the cement plant.

Concerns expressed during the two hour meeting ranged over such issues as air, water and ground pollution, transportation and storage problems, adequacy of testing procedures, public input and government regulations.

Ware told the group the fuels the company plans to test this winter are not the same as those burned in a hazardous waste incinerator. The fuels being considered are made from old tires, old motor oil and solvent-derived fuels.

According to a handout, the fuels are defined by the Environmental Protection Agency as hazardous "because they are flammable at low temperatures and because these materials, like gasoline or other fuels, are harmful to people who eat or inhale significant amounts."

The statement continued: "The hazardous-waste-derived fuels we wish to test are not raw waste streams, but carefully-blended and controlled liquid (pumpable) and solid (un-pumpable) fuels. The fuels are transported in Department of Transportation approved containers, trucks and rail cars."

Fuel will be delivered in six-gallon drums. None will be processed at the plant.

The handout quoted a 1987 EPA study: "Preliminary feasibility studies and tests have indicated that some industrial facilities with high-temperature combustion processes may provide a cost-effective and environmentally acceptable alternative to the disposal of hazardous wastes in incinerators or landfills. These industrial processes have the potential for recovering the heating value of the waste, removing

chlorides, and providing a destruction and removal efficiency equivalent to hazardous waste incinerators."

Ware said he wasn't sure where the test fuels would come from. "We feel that there are markets available throughout Utah that we can get it from," he said. "We haven't made any contacts with anybody yet."

The testing will be done under the plants existing state air quality permit, Ware said, although the Air Quality Division of the State Department of Health may make some modifications to it. A formal Environmental Assessment is not needed.

No significant changes in plant emissions are expected, Ware said. "We want to demonstrate that the cement that we produce will be neither toxic nor hazardous," he said.

Ware said the next step in the process is to submit data on similar Ash Grove operations to the Air Quality Division. The Division will use it to formulate testing criteria.

Company officials say they have had "very positive, extensive experience" burning alternative fuels at their plants in Foreman, Arkansas; Chanute, Kansas; and Louisville, Nebraska. The company ships used oil from a Salt Lake City processor for use in its Inkom, Idaho plant.

At least 26 cement plants in 18 states use similar products for fuel.

During plant shut-down in December for maintenance and repair, the company plans to prepare its kiln for testing when operations start up again in January 1990. Those tests will be monitored by Air Quality observers.

The Leamington plant where 83 people are employed was built in 1981. It produces about 600,000 tons of cement a year.

by Ken Rand

## Millard firm blamed

Hay cubes processed by Paramount Cubing of Delta have been blamed in connection with the deaths of several horses in California.

As many as 15 horses have died within a short period of time. Seven died at the Orange County Fairgrounds, three at a Chino stable, two at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. Three other cases have been reported.

Investigators said that in at least 11 of the cases, the horses were fed cubes from Paramount Cubing.

Nine of 260 horses boarded in the Los Angeles County fairgrounds in Pomona have displayed symptoms since Oct. 28, trainer Larry Mayfield said. Veterinarians in Ventura and Alhambra County have reported similar illnesses.

Robin Smith, one of three owners of Paramount, said the problem has been magnified out of proportion by L.A. media.

Veterinarians looking for possible sources of toxins discovered tufts of rabbit fur in Paramount hay cubes. Tests conducted Tuesday, Nov. 7 showed a rare type of botulism toxin was present in the cubes.

The rare toxin is called Clostridium Botulinum, type C, according to Dr. Hailu Kinde of California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Systems. The strain is common in aquatic birds, minks, dogs and cats. Kinde said it last affected horses 10 years ago in Florida.

But autopsies have so far failed to establish botulism as the cause of death in any of the cases, according to Smith.

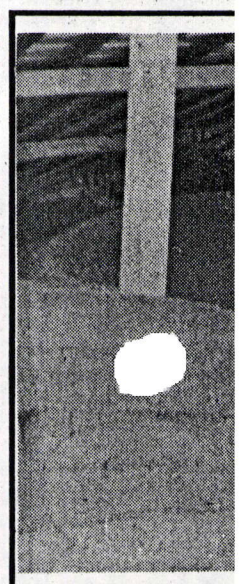
"They still haven't found any reason for the deaths," Smith said. "They're assuming it was botulism."

A laboratory at the University of California at Davis is doing the bulk of the testing work.

Paramount buys about 18,000 tons of local hay a year to process into compact cubes. It was being sold exclusively to stables in California where pet, show and racehorses are kept.

L.A. media have reported racehorses have died. "I've been to all three of these stables," Smith said, "and I know of no racehorses that have died. Only some show horses and some saddle horses."

Millard County Commissioner Mike Styler said when the toxin was discovered, a press conference was held at Orange County Fairgrounds at which Paramount Cubing was blamed. "I guess they're really taking a beating down there in the media," he said. "It's really terrible. They're saying Millard County hay from Paramount Cubing is



Tons of hay cubes west of Delta

the source of all our problems. Smith said Paramount horses a day in Southern years. "Nobody mentions it. The only thing that's 15 that did die. We're problem like this before.

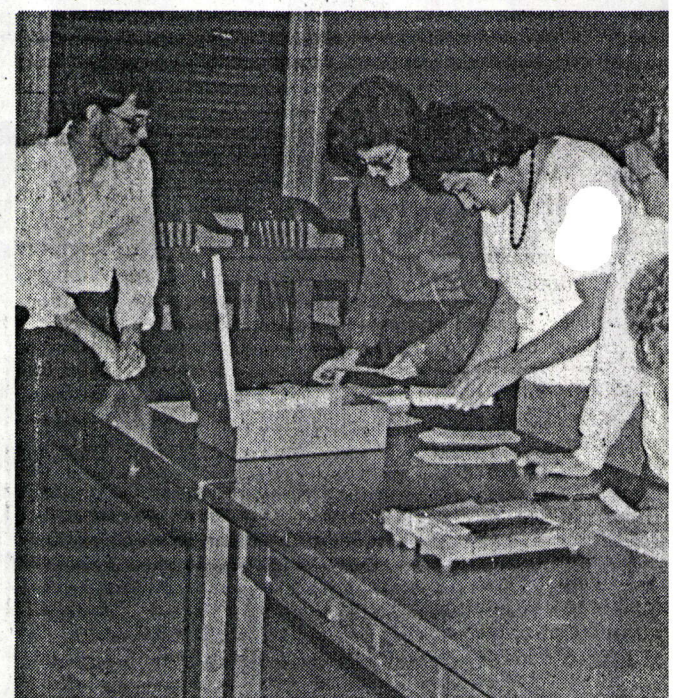
Cubes shipped to distribution center in between Oct. 24 and Oct. 28. Those were the cubes which the botulism were shipped.

He said only about 10 cubes shipped during the time remain. "We're customers and picking up said. The rest have all summed.

Animals such as flocks of pheasants and skunks are up in haying operation. "There's no question that said, "because they're fields." Botulism toxin develop in the bodies of

"People in the hay business are aware of the risk you take feeding livestock," Smith said. "It's not that when it happens to some guy that has a horse out back, most people money to pay for an autopsy."

Smith said the people of California can afford expensive horses they have stable. "These are get their horses autopsied. They call in a vet when horses cough."



Tabulating ballots, left to right: Scott Chambers, Carr, and Annette Johnson. Lorraine Iverson: County

## Voters say PROHIBIT by wide margin

Millard County residents on Tuesday, Nov. 7 voted overwhelming support for amending the county's master plan to prohibit hazardous waste disposal facilities as a conditional use.

The final vote was 2,626 to prohibit, 686 to permit.

Millard County Commissioner Mike Styler said he had hoped for a different outcome. "I was one that thought there

### How you voted on the hazardous waste issue

Precinct to permit to prohibit

Fillmore #1	132	334
Fillmore #2	76	186
Meadow	17	116
Kanosh	49	135

campaign," Chandler said.

There was no organized campaign in favor of incinerators.

Acting director of the Utah Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Dennis Downs, said the vote "doesn't surprise me." He said it won't effect the state's process for handling hazardous waste facility permit applications.